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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The centennial of President Ronald Reagan's birth
3 occurred on February 6, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, President Reagan was the only U.S. president born
5 in the State of Illinois, in the town of Tampico; and

6 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan spent his formative years in
7 Illinois, growing up in Dixon; and

8 WHEREAS, While serving as a lifeguard on the Rock River
9 during his teenage years, Ronald Reagan was credited with
10 saving 77 lives; and

11 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan went to Illinois' Eureka College,
12 where he majored in economics and sociology and graduated from
13 that institution in 1932; and

14 WHEREAS, After college, Ronald Reagan entered the field of
15 broadcasting as an announcer for the Chicago Cubs out of the
16 WHO radio station in Des Moines, Iowa; and

17 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan then traveled to Hollywood to embark
18 on a career in motion pictures, eventually starring in more
19 than 60 films; and

1 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan left acting to serve in the Second
2 World War, eventually rising to the rank of Captain in the
3 United States Army Air Force; and

4 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan put his acting skills to use in the
5 armed forces, helping make more than 400 training films to
6 assist AAF pilots; and

7 WHEREAS, Upon returning to Hollywood, Ronald Reagan joined
8 the Screen Actors Guild union, eventually serving six terms as
9 president of the organization; and

10 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan's role as George Gipp in the movie
11 "Knute Rockne: All American" led to his nickname "The Gipper",
12 which he was called for the rest of his life; and

13 WHEREAS, On the set of the movie "Hellcats of the Navy",
14 Ronald Reagan met the woman who would end up being the love of
15 his life, Nancy Davis; and

16 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was the proud father of four
17 children - Maureen, Ron, Jr., Patti, and Michael; and

18 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan served as a spokesman for General
19 Electric; he later served as a host for the popular TV show

1 General Electric Theater; and

2 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan went on to be elected to serve as
3 the two-time governor of California, serving from 1967 to 1975;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was elected President of the United
6 States in 1980 - the first native-born Illinois person to reach
7 the highest office in the land; and

8 WHEREAS, President Reagan's optimism and belief that the
9 United States' best days were yet to come helped rejuvenate the
10 American spirit; and

11 WHEREAS, President Reagan never mistook his political
12 opponents for enemies, and worked with his Democratic Congress
13 on behalf of the American people; and

14 WHEREAS, President Reagan's grace under pressure during
15 his assassination attempt, with quips such as "Honey, I forgot
16 to duck", helped console the American people during that very
17 dark hour; and

18 WHEREAS, President Reagan's strong support for our
19 national defense and his popularity among our nation's fighting
20 men and women led to the naming of the aircraft carrier USS

1 Ronald Reagan in his honor; and

2 WHEREAS, During President Reagan's presidency, the United
3 States was respected throughout the world, and foreign
4 relations improved with Europe, India, China, and other
5 nations; and

6 WHEREAS, During the Reagan presidency, America saw years of
7 unprecedented economic growth and prosperity; and

8 WHEREAS, President Reagan never forgot his Illinois roots -
9 frequently coming back to our State to visit his boyhood home
10 of Dixon, Eureka College, and other communities; and

11 WHEREAS, As president, Ronald Reagan was graced with the
12 nickname "The Great Communicator" for his ability to convey his
13 vision to the American people; and

14 WHEREAS, President Reagan's popularity among the American
15 people led to his winning 49 states in his reelection and
16 capturing more electoral votes than any other presidential
17 candidate in history; and

18 WHEREAS, Working with national leaders and our democratic
19 allies, President Reagan played a crucial part in ending
20 communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union; and

1 WHEREAS, When the reformist leader Mikhail Gorbachev took
2 power in the Soviet Union, President Reagan worked with him to
3 diffuse Cold War tensions; and

4 WHEREAS, President Reagan worked with General Secretary
5 Gorbachev to reduce nuclear arms by concluding an agreement on
6 the INF Treaty, which, for the first time ever, reduced the
7 number of nuclear weapons; and

8 WHEREAS, President Reagan gave a famous speech in 1987
9 calling on Mr. Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall, which
10 did fall a little more than two years later; and

11 WHEREAS, By the end of the Reagan presidency, Cold War
12 tensions between the Soviet Union and United States had
13 dramatically decreased; and

14 WHEREAS, President Reagan's speech comforting the nation
15 following the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger helped
16 console a grieving nation; and

17 WHEREAS, President Reagan's leadership inspired many young
18 Americans to enter public service; and

19 WHEREAS, President Reagan's courageous fight against

1 Alzheimer's disease led to greater public awareness of that
2 terrible illness; and

3 WHEREAS, Hundreds of landmarks, roads, and buildings have
4 been named as a tribute to President Reagan across America,
5 including Washington DC's Reagan Airport and Ronald Reagan
6 Building, and Illinois' Ronald Reagan Memorial Highway;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we salute President
10 Ronald Reagan on the 100th anniversary of his birth, thank him
11 for the service to our country as a member of our armed forces,
12 as a public servant, and as President, and honor him for
13 helping to revive the American spirit.